

Appl. No. : 09/904,462
Filed : July 13, 2001

C1
in the Examples below. Using BLAST and FastA sequence alignment computer programs, Applicants found that various portions of the PRO229 polypeptide have significant homology with antigen wcl.1, M130 antigen, and T cell surface glycoprotein CD6. It also is related to Sp-alpha. Accordingly, it is presently believed that PRO229 polypeptide disclosed in the present application is a newly identified member of the family containing scavenger receptor homology, a sequence motif found in a number of proteins involved in immune function and thus possesses immune function and /or segments which resist degradation, typical of this family. —

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 39-43, 47, 48, and 49, without prejudice.

Please amend claims 44, 45, 46, and 50 to read as follows:

44. (Once amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising:
(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 148; or
(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 148, lacking its associated signal peptide,
wherein said polypeptide induces chondrocyte proliferation.

C2
45. (Once amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim 44 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 148.

46. (Once amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim 44 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 148, lacking its associated signal peptide.

C3
50. (Once amended) A chimeric polypeptide comprising a polypeptide according to Claim 44 fused to a heterologous polypeptide.